

CLEAR SKIES IN COLORADO¹

Human Health and Environmental Benefits of Clear Skies: Clear Skies would protect human health, improve air quality, and reduce deposition of sulfur dioxide (SO₂), nitrogen oxides (NO_x), and mercury.²

Clear Skies Benefits Nationwide

- In 2020, annual health benefits from reductions in ozone and fine particles would total \$93 billion, including 12,000 fewer premature deaths, far outweighing the \$6.49 billion cost of the Clear Skies program.
 - Using an alternative methodology results in over 7,000 premature deaths prevented and \$11 billion in benefits by 2020—still exceeding the cost of the program.³
 - Clear Skies would provide an additional \$3 billion in benefits due to improved visibility in National Parks and wilderness areas in 2020.
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- There are no counties in Colorado currently projected to be out of attainment with the annual fine particle or 8-hour ozone standards. Clear Skies would, however, achieve additional reductions or moderate projected increases in fine particle concentrations under the existing Clean Air Act that would protect human health.
 - Clear Skies delivers environmental benefits by 2020:
 - nitrogen deposition would be reduced by up to 60% in southwestern portions of the state and by up to 15% throughout the rest of the state; and
 - under Clear Skies, the Western Regional Air Partnership (WRAP) agreement would be honored, and the WRAP emissions reductions are expected to take effect; this would allow future growth in the West to occur without degrading visibility.

¹ The projected impacts are the results of extensive emissions and regional air quality modeling and benefits analyses as summarized in the *Technical Addendum: Methodologies for Benefit Analysis of the Clear Skies Initiative, 2002*. While the policy analyses tools EPA used are among the best available, all such national scale policy assessments are subject to a number of uncertainties, particularly when projecting air quality or environmental impacts in particular locations.

² All human health and environmental benefits are calculated in comparison to existing Clean Air Act programs.

³ The two sets of estimates reflect alternative assumptions and analytical approaches regarding quantifying and evaluating the effects of airborne particles on public health. All estimates assume that particles are causally associated with health effects, and that all components have the same toxicity. Linear concentration-response relationships between PM and all health effects are assumed, indicating that reductions in PM have the same impact on health outcomes regardless of the absolute level of PM in a given location. The base estimate relies on estimates of the potential cumulative effect of long-term exposure to particles, while the alternative estimate presumes that PM effects are limited to those that accumulate over much shorter time periods. All such estimates are subject to a number of assumptions and uncertainties. It is of note that, based on recent preliminary findings from the Health Effects Institute, the magnitude of mortality from short-term exposure (alternative estimates) and hospital/ER admissions estimates (both estimates) may be overstated. The alternatives also use different approaches to value health effects damages. The key assumptions, uncertainties, and valuation methodologies underlying the approaches used to produce these results are detailed in the *Technical Addendum* noted above.

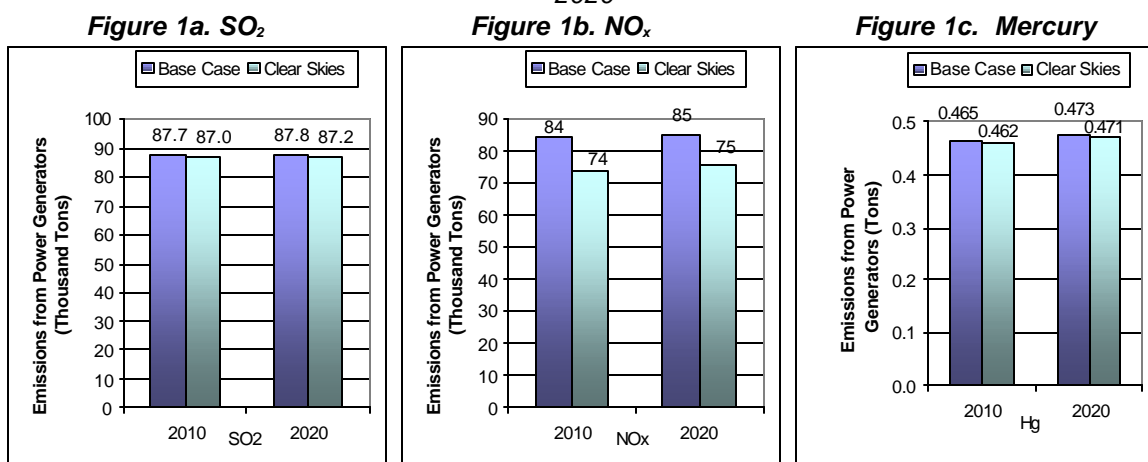
Changes in Emissions Under Clear Skies: Clear Skies is projected to maintain SO₂ and NO_x from power generators through 2020.

- In Colorado, Clear Skies is projected to maintain current (2000) levels of SO₂ and NO_x emissions from power generators.
- While 2020 mercury emissions would slightly increase over current (2000) emission levels under Clear Skies, the 2020 emission levels remain unchanged from projected base case emissions.

Nationwide Emissions under Clear Skies in 2020

- SO₂ emissions from power generators are projected to be 3.9 million tons (a 65% reduction from 2000 levels).
- NO_x emissions are projected to be 1.7 million tons (a 67% reduction from 2000 levels).
- Mercury emissions are projected to be 18 tons (a 63% reduction from 2000 levels).
- At full implementation, the emission reductions would be 73% for SO₂, 67% for NO_x, and 69% for mercury.

Figures 1a, 1b and 1c. Existing Clean Air Act Regulations (base case⁴) vs. Clear Skies in Colorado in 2010 and 2020



- Emissions rates *in Colorado* in 2010 and 2020:

Table 1. Projected Emissions Rates in 2010 and 2020 in Colorado From Power Generators

Year		SO ₂	NO _x			Hg
		Coal	All	Coal	Gas	Coal
		lbs/MMBtu	lbs/MMBtu	lbs/MMBtu	lbs/MMBtu	lbs/TBtu
2010	Base Case	0.46	0.40	0.43	0.13	2.46
	Clear Skies	0.46	0.36	0.38	0.13	2.46
2020	Base Case	0.46	0.37	0.43	0.08	2.50
	Clear Skies	0.46	0.33	0.38	0.08	2.50

Costs: Nationwide, the projected annual costs of Clear Skies (in \$1999) are \$3.69 billion in 2010 and \$6.49 billion in 2020.⁵

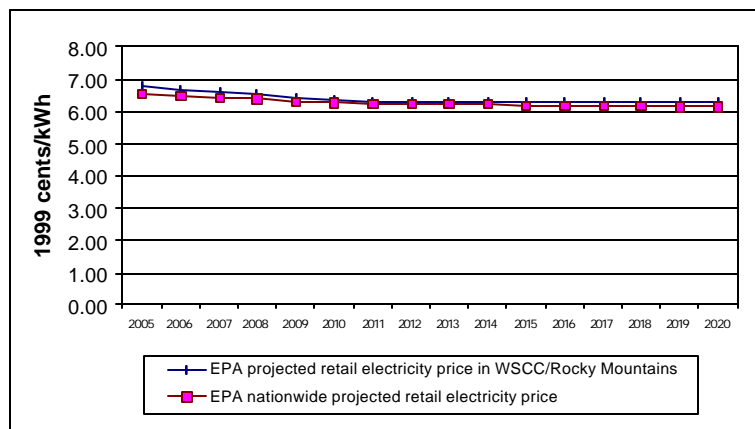
⁴ The base case includes Title IV, the NO_x SIP call and State-specific caps in CT, MO and TX. It does not include mercury MACT in 2008 or any other potential future regulations to implement the current Clean Air Act.

⁵ EPA uses the Integrated Planning Model (IPM) to project the economic impact of Clear Skies on the power generation sector. IPM disaggregates the power generation sector into specific regions based on properties of the electric transmission system, power market fundamentals, and regional environmental regulations. These regions do not conform to State or EPA region boundaries making some compliance options, such as dispatch, and associated costs impractical to differentiate at a State or Regional level.

Changes in Projected Retail Electricity Prices Under Clear Skies: Electricity prices in Colorado would not be significantly affected by Clear Skies.

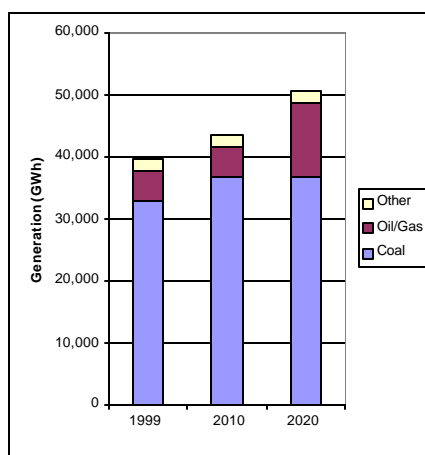
- In 1999, the average retail electricity price *in Colorado* was approximately 5.95 cents/kWh, which was slightly less than the average *national* retail price of approximately 6.66 cents/kWh.⁶ As shown in Figure 3, retail prices in WSCC/Rocky Mountains (the North American Electric Reliability Council (NERC) region that contains Colorado) are projected to decrease and remain above the national average between 2005 and 2020.⁷

Figure 2. *Projected Retail Electricity Prices in WSCC/Rocky Mountains under Clear Skies (2005-2020)*



Generation in Colorado Under Clear Skies: Coal-fired power plants currently produce 83% of the electricity generated in Colorado. Although coal-fired generation would continue to increase under Clear Skies, the portion of total generation from coal-fired plants would decrease. In Colorado, coal-fired generation would continue at approximately 84% in 2010 and then decrease to 72% by 2020. In 2010 and 2020, Colorado is projected to have 4,900 MW of coal-fired capacity.

Figure 3. *Current and Projected Generation by Fuel Type in Colorado under Clear Skies (GWh)*⁸



⁶ Source: 1999 EIA data at http://www.eia.doe.gov/cneaf/electricity/page/fact_sheets/retailprice.html.

⁷ State-level retail electricity prices vary considerably across the United States. Variation in prices can be caused by many factors including access to low cost fuels for generating power, State taxes, and the mix of power plants in the States.

⁸ Source: 1999 data from EIA at http://www.eia.doe.gov/cneaf/electricity/st_profiles/colorado/co.html#t5 (Table 5).

- EPA does not project that any facilities in Colorado would switch from coal to natural gas in response to the Clear Skies emissions caps.
- Through 2020, 54% of Colorado's coal-fired generation is projected to come from coal units with emission control equipment.⁹

Coal Production in Colorado: Colorado currently produces approximately 3% of the nation's coal supply, and has about 3% of the nation's coal reserves.¹⁰

- EPA projects a *nationwide* 7.2% increase in coal production by 2020, relative to 2000. Preliminary analysis shows a 6% decrease in total coal production in the West between 2000 (510 million tons) and 2020 (479 million tons).¹¹
- Based on preliminary analysis, EPA projects a slight decrease in coal mining jobs by 2020 in West relative to the base case.

Major Generation Companies in Colorado: The ten largest plants in the State -- each over 250 MW -- are a combination of hydro, coal-fired, gas-fired, and petroleum-fired units. The major generation companies include: Public Service Co. of Colorado, Colorado Springs Utilities, Utilicorp United, Inc., Intermountain Rural Electric Assn., and Fort Collins Utilities.

⁹ Emissions control equipment includes, where applicable, scrubbers, selective catalytic reduction, selective non-catalytic reduction, gas-reburn and activated carbon injection.

¹⁰ Source: 2000 Coal Industry Annual, Tables 1 and 33.

¹¹ Because coal supply regions generally do not confirm to State boundaries, it is impractical to project coal production at a State-level.